



ECE-INSIDER

*A Division of Child Care Quarterly Newsletter for
Kentucky's Early Care and Education Child Care Providers*

October 2010

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Child Care Assistance Program Provider Payment Changes

Effective October 1, 2010, the Division of Child Care will no longer offer the option for payment using a debit card. We would like to encourage you to consider receiving your payments through electronic deposit (direct deposit) to either your checking or savings account.

This method of payment eliminates lost, stolen or forged checks, saves trips to your financial institution and you may receive your money payment faster than a check being mailed to you.

If you would like to sign up for direct deposit to your checking or savings account, simply contact the Division of Child Care, 275 E. Main St., 3 C-F, Frankfort, KY 40621.

CCAP- The Child Care Assistance Program Regulations

The following regulations regarding the Child Care Assistance Program have been adopted.

922 KAR 1:320. Service appeals – This administrative regulation was amended to further specify the service complaints and appeal request within the Child Care Assistance Program. The regulation identifies individuals (applicants, recipients and providers), who may submit a service compliant or hearing request and establishes the process for notification of adverse action.

922 KAR 2:020. Child Care Assistance Program improper payments, claims, and penalties – This new administrative regulation governs cabinet procedures for the recoupment of an improper payment (overpayment of child care assistance). The regulation states that a claim will be established on a client/provider if the client/provider is overpaid for any reason. In addition, this administrative regulation will require a CCAP recipient household (i.e., parent) or child care provider to be disqualified from the Child Care Assistance Program if found to have committed an intentional program violation (i.e., fraud).

922 KAR 2:160. Child Care Assistance Program – This regulation was amended with the following significant changes:

- Informal dispute resolution process added;
- Child's income is now included in the calculation of the household's eligibility determination.
- Income from Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (K-TAP) benefits and the Workforce Investment Act are excluded in the calculation of the household's income;
- Co-payment chart modified to ensure congruency with the CCAP data/payment system;
- CCAP payments in regards to holidays and child absences have been limited;
- Increased accountability for compliance with parental co-payments, (also in 920 KAR 2:020);
- New provision added to allow CCAP eligibility for an unemployed parent for up to four weeks, or a parent on maternity leave or subject to a health condition impacting employment for up to six weeks;
- Change in the definition of non-traditional hours and clarifies that payment is made only on behalf of the child that is cared for during the non-traditional hours. Calculations are based on the parent's schedule.

The official versions of these regulations are available online at:

<http://www.lrc.ky.gov/kar/frntpage.htm>



STARS for KIDS NOW program Participant (s).

You may have recently received a gift package from the STARS for KIDS NOW program. The gifts are yours to keep. Please take a moment to examine the packet. It contains valuable material that may help to increase awareness of your program's participation in the STARS for KIDS NOW Program and help parent(s) locate a good quality child care provider.

STARS for KIDS NOW is a voluntary quality rating and improvement program which reviews and ranks child care providers in the same way hotels and restaurants are rated. Participating programs receive a rating of 1 to 4 STARS based upon the observation of the child care program.

The STARS program looks at standards that go above and beyond the basic requirements which the State of Kentucky sets for licensed child care centers and certified in home child care providers. The STARS for KIDS NOW program is committed to providing the very best quality and insuring that your children receive the best possible care.

We hope that the gifts and the information are beneficial to your child care program.

To find out more about the STARS program, please visit the website at:

www@starsforkidsnow.com

Reach for the STARS!

Community Early Childhood Councils

The Community Early Childhood Councils (CECCs) were created in 2001 as part of the KIDS NOW Initiative. Currently there are 66 funded Community Early Childhood Councils serving 92 counties across the Commonwealth. CECCs provide services and activities based on an analysis of local needs to improve the quality of early care and education for young children and families. Some projects include mini-grants to childcare providers to increase quality; support for professional development opportunities; community awareness campaigns; and literacy projects such as Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

CECCs are voluntary and diverse in membership and are always looking for new and innovative members to join their force. The collaboration of this diverse group affords communities the opportunities to strengthen their families through support and awareness. By visiting the CECC website, you will find information on the current CECCs, regulations that guide the work of the CECCs and other supporting documents.

Please contact Katie Williams (Katie.williams@education.ky.gov) or by calling (502) 564-8341, if you are in a community which does not currently have an active CECC.



Who are we?

We are health care professionals who are trained as Child Care Health Consultants.

What do we do?

- Provide on-site assistance in the classroom with diapering and hand-washing procedures
- Assist in the development and review of health and safety policies and procedures
- Provide information or technical assistance on health, safety or nutrition
- Provide playground safety consultation or assessment
- Assist with preparation for STARS and licensing visits and plan of action
- Bimonthly newsletter

Child Care Health Consultation Helpline

Initiative is part of the Healthy Start in Child Care Program

The Kentucky Department for Public Health (DPH) has a toll-free helpline to assist child care providers and other child care consultants across the state.

The Child Care Health Consultation Helpline, **1-877-281-5277**, can be accessed toll-free for technical assistance to child care centers, including answering questions and providing information about health, nutrition, safety and social/emotional well-being of children. For centers in need of onsite consultation, staff will facilitate contacting the nearest local health department child care center consultants.

The Child Care Health Consultation is staffed by the Child Care Health Consultant Technical Assistants at the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday. There is a voicemail system for messages after hours.

Trained Child Care Health Consultants from the local health departments participate in joint activities with the resource and referral agencies in their area to ensure collaboration and coordination regarding health, safety and nutrition issues impacting the quality of child care.

The website is **<http://www.kentuckycchc.org/>**.



Child Care Resource and Referral Agency Training

Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (CCR&R) provide training to child care providers, early childhood professionals, parents, advocates and many ore. Training sessions are held regionally. Training session information and registration is available through the ECE-TRIS statewide training calendar.

To view the statewide training calendar, provided by ECE-TRIS (Early Care and Education Training Records Information System), please click on the following link. The link will open in a new window. Once you have opened the webpage, look for the “Calendar” link.

<https://tris.eku.edu/ece>

Contact information for your local CCR&R can be found at this website

<http://www.kentuckypartnership.org/Info/Family/ccsearch.aspx>

or by calling the toll-free phone number of (877) 316-3552.

Have you logged on to ECE-TRIS yet?

ECE-TRIS (Early Care and Education Training Records Information System) was designed for all early care and education professionals to gain access to their personal training records. Since 2006, Kentucky Credentialed Trainers, Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, and other training agencies in the state have been encouraged to submit their training data to ECE-TRIS.

Currently ECE-TRIS contains:

- .48,815 early care and education professionals
- .24,491 Training Sessions
- .44,587 have received training credit for at least one or more sessions for a total of 296,554 training records

So, have you logged on yet to see your records? If not, consider these benefits:

- .You can view and print a comprehensive training record on events you have attended that been submitted to ECE-TRIS for processing.
- .You can access your training information anytime.
- .Lost certificates can be immediately replaced with your training record and accepted by the Division of Regulated Child Care.
- .ECE-TRIS training records can assist with professional development planning.

Are you ready to get started? You can log in using the following instructions:

Username:	Your username is comprised of your first name and your last name. Example: pattie.participant
Password:	Your default password is comprised of the letters ece and your 8 digit date of birth without any slashes, dashes, or spaces. Example: ece01261979



Email: ecetris@eku.edu

Phone: 859-622-8811

Toll Free # 1-877-312-8747 (TRIS)

Infant/Toddler Initiative

The Infant/Toddler Initiative is designed to improve services to our youngest Kentucky citizens through ARRA funds. We have presented the Initiative emphases for infants, toddlers, and their families at several venues, most recently including the Infant/Toddler Institute in Lexington in August 2010. Marybeth Jackson, DCC Director, and Caroline Gooden, Infant/Toddler Coordinator, presented the plans for this year which include:

- Support of the infant/toddler CDA credential
- Provision of professional development for infant/toddler trainers and providers
- Training trainers on implications of brain development research
- Training trainers on PCAN curricula to support families of infants and toddlers in stress
- Support of car seat safety
- Plans designed for sustainability of efforts for infants, toddlers, and their families

Events that have supported this initiative to date include a full day session on the implication of research on brain development at the Infant/Toddler Institute, the Infant/Toddler Institute presentation by Marybeth and Caroline, a meeting of the Infant/Toddler Advisory Committee, and planning for further training this fall.

We have created a web page on the KY Partnership website to serve as a resource for the Infant Toddler Initiative, at www.kentuckypartnership.org/infanttoddlerinitiative. Visit our site to learn more about the plans for this exciting new initiative!



New Engagement Training Series

The Kentucky Early Childhood Transition Project is coordinating with the Kentucky Early Childhood Regional Training Centers and other content experts across the state to develop a series of modules called the “ENGAGEMENT Training Series – Supporting Transition and School Readiness.” These modules are intended for use by family and professional trainers who will train families and providers in regional and community settings. Early Care and Education Directors also could replicate several of these trainings for families as a part of the STARS program. The modules will be available to trainers in the months ahead through the website: www.kentuckypartnership.org/kectp, with training on the content of each module given by the developer and KECTP providing a “Train-the-Trainer” webinar quarterly.

Who Knew?

1. Stimulating Environment Affects Learning

A child's ability to learn can increase or decrease by ____ percent or more, depending on whether he or she grows up in a stimulating environment.

- a. 50 percent
- b. 75 percent
- c. 25 percent
- d. 5 percent

2. Abused Children Have _____ Brains

Parts of the brain of a severely abused and neglected child can be substantially _____ than that of a healthy child. Adverse early experiences can cause long-lasting and dysfunctional alterations in brain architecture.

- a. smaller
- b. the same size
- c. larger

3. Baby Talk Increases Vocabulary

A study showed that when mothers frequently spoke to their infants, their children learned about ____ more words by age two than did children whose mothers rarely spoke to them.

- a. 0 words
- b. 100 words
- c. 200 words
- d. 300 words

4. Reading Aloud Stimulates Child Development

Reading aloud to children helps stimulate brain development, yet only ____ of infants and toddlers are routinely read to by their parents.

- a. 25 percent
- b. 50 percent
- c. 75
- d. 100%

5. Newborns Distinguish Speech

Children as young as _____ old can distinguish the vowel sounds of the language in their natural environment from those of a foreign language.

- a. two days
- b. four days
- c. one week
- d. two weeks

Adapted by Teri Mehler for Cradling Literacy, July 2010
Resources: www.brainconnection.com; www.developingchild.net

Answer Key: 1c; 2a; 3d; 4b; 5b.

Kentucky Partnership Online Courses

The Kentucky Partnership for Early Childhood Services offers several online courses that meet the training requirements for licensing renewal, STARS for Quality Services, and renewal of the Trainer's Credential.

• **ECool: Early Childhood Orientation OnLine** fulfills the 6-hour orientation required to be completed within three months of date of hire for early care and education professionals.

For more information and to register, go to: <http://www.kentuckypartnership.org/ecool>

• **Introduction to Professional Development Framework and Core Content for Trainers** first introduces you to the various components of Kentucky's Early Childhood Professional Development Framework (revised 2008). The second section explores the use of Early Childhood Core Content as it is related to training sessions. This section is particularly helpful to trainers in learning how to align training outcomes with the corresponding Core Content competency and level, but also helps providers understand how to select training sessions based on Core Content and Levels. Two training hours in early childhood and one hour in adult learning/effective training design available.

For more information and to register for the course, go to:

<http://www.kentuckypartnership.org/Info/ecpro/ECPD/training/tipptrng/trainers/PDF>

• **Getting Started in Child Care: New Directors Online** assists owners/directors of new Type I child care programs or new directors of existing programs to meet and maintain child care licensing requirements and provide quality services to young children and their families.

For more information and to register, go to:

<http://www.kentuckypartnership.org/Info/ecpro/ECPD/training/tipptrng/director>

• **Leadership Training** is available to support new chairpersons of Community Early Childhood Councils, ICCs, or DEICs. The training supports anyone in a leadership position with effective meeting strategies, etc.

• **The Paving the Way to School Success Series** offers information for anyone interested in learning about early childhood transition and the Kentucky process. Modules include an overview of early childhood transition and research based practices for preparing families and children for success. Practical application exercises allow participants to explore material within their job responsibilities.

For more information and to register, go to: www.kentuckypartnership.org/kectp

Follow up webinars are provided quarterly by the Kentucky Early Childhood Transition Project Director to discuss job embedding strategies learned.

Early Childhood Credentials: The Commonwealth Child Care Credential

The Division of Child Care issues three Early Childhood Credentials: the Commonwealth Child Care Credential, the Director's Credential and the Kentucky Early Care and Education Trainer's Credential.

The Commonwealth Child Care Credential is considered an entry level credential consisting of a 60-hour planned program of instruction, including field assignments; it is valid for one year and renewable annually with 15 hours of Early Care and Education training. The credential is based on the seven Early Care and Education Core Content subject areas.

Early Care and Education professionals, who want to begin developing a Professional Development plan that includes working toward other credentials and/or Early Childhood degrees can begin with the Commonwealth Credential. The CCCC aligns with the first 60 hours of the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential offered by the Council for Professional Recognition in Washington, D.C. and can be considered equal to a three (3) hour college course. Individuals with a Commonwealth Child Care Credential meet licensing, certification, and STARS program regulations. Currently, there are three ways to earn a Commonwealth Child Care Credential:

1. Attending 60 hours of training at a Division of Child Care approved Non College training organization. There is a non-college scholarship available to qualified individuals that will cover the full cost of the 60 hours of required training.
2. Completing pre-approved Early Care and Education course work at a Kentucky university or college while working toward a CDA or other credential/degree. College scholarships are available for qualified individuals.
3. Earning a Certificate of Eligibility from an Early Care and Education Career and Technical education program located in various high schools across the State. The Certificate of Eligibility is issued by the school and can be immediately transferred to a Commonwealth Child Care Credential when the individual reaches 18 years of age and is employed at least 20 hours per week in a licensed or certified facility.



To learn more about the Commonwealth Child Care Credential, and for information on Early Care and Education scholarships, contact a Professional Development Counselor in your area. Visit the University of Kentucky Partnership's webpage below for a counselor in your area:

<http://www.kentuckypartnership.org/Info/ecpro/ECPD/scholar/pdc.aspx>

Or call the Division of Child Care at (502) 564-2524.

Helpful Phone Numbers and Websites	Phone Number	Website
Division of Child Care	(502) 564-2524	http://chfs.ky.gov/dccs/dcc/
Division of Regulated Child Care	(502) 564-7962	http://chfs.ky.gov/os/oig/drcc.htm
Child Care Health Consultation	(877) 281-5277	http://www.kentuckyccchc.org/
Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Agencies	(877) 316-3552	http://www.kentuckypartnership.org/Info/Family/ccsearch.aspx
Training into Practice Project (TIPP)	(859) 257-1267	http://www.kentuckypartnership.org/General/About/tipp.aspx
Kentucky Department of Education Division of Early Childhood Development	(502) 564-8341	http://kidsnow.ky.gov
ECE-TRIS Early Care and Education Training Records Information System	(877) 312-TRIS (8747)	https://tris.eku.edu/ece/